

Meeting Minutes  
TOWN OF EASTON, CONNECTICUT  
Commission for the Aging  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, March 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 PM. Present were: Linda Dollard, Phyllis Machledt, Karen Martin, Lisa Tasi and Eileen Zimmerman / Municipal Agent – Senior Services.

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the February 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the members via a motion by Linda Dollard and Phyllis Machledt.

2. Unfinished Business

A. MCS Fund

A monthly report was received from Town Finance Direct Christine Calvert.

B. Update on Medicare Savings Program / State of CT

Members discussed the current situation on the MSP. The program remains intact until July 1, 2018. There are parameters to meet for qualifying for one of the three Medicare Savings Programs (depending on income); DSS pays Medicare Part B premium each month. In addition, some enrollees will be covered for Medicare deductibles and co-insurance. Medicare Savings Programs are funded by Medicaid. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, eligibility is extended through until July 1<sup>st</sup>, this is a result of Governor Malloy's direction to the Department of Social Services; and the General Assembly's passage of Public Act 17-1, January 2018 Special Session.

Members discussed the number of Easton Seniors receiving Senior Aid. Karen Martin will inquire via the Tax Relief for the Elderly to report back with information with regards to number of seniors/household income/tax relief.

[www.croweandassociates.com/medicare-savings-program-ct-2018/](http://www.croweandassociates.com/medicare-savings-program-ct-2018/)

[www.ct.gov/agingservices/lib/agingservices/msp/makinganinformeddecision2018mspchanges.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/agingservices/lib/agingservices/msp/makinganinformeddecision2018mspchanges.pdf)

3. New Business

A. Municipal Agent's Report – Eileen Zimmerman

Eileen is continuing her work with Seniors' Fuel Assistance and MSP questions. She met with the Lion's Club and is continuing participating in the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and Fairfield Social Services. She has met the local area's representative Margaret Watt and Easton representative, Sara Donovan, of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This is a key area that needs to be addressed for social work and psycho education. Eileen will be continuing the Bereavement Group with the assistance of Margarite Mcvay. This program will launch during the month of May. An additional setting will be focusing on Caregivers in the Fall 2018. Eileen has scheduled CHOICES counselors for individual appointments two mornings in March. A presentation on Medicare, in collaboration with SWCAA, will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Easton Library. Eileen is coordinating an Electronics workshop for Seniors at the Library on March 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as having some JBHS students contact Easton Seniors for a Social History project. There are other upcoming events scheduled for the Spring 2018.

#### B. 2018 Planning and Projects

There are spring events scheduled for the months of March and April. Other panel / workshops are being reviewed for implementation. Eileen will also be reaching out to local leaders (religious and social settings) to connect to Seniors and their needs.

#### C. SWCCA Report

Phyllis Machledt, SWCCA representative, provided an update on the organization. SWCCA is still dealing with the challenges on the MSP situation. There are various effects on seniors in all settings, urban and rural, who have limited incomes and beholden to the changing program rules.

There will be two upcoming events: 1. March 28 at Madison Middle School in Trumbull, the topic is Addition and Opioids; and, 2. April 18 at Mona Terrace in Fairfield on Group Nexus.

([www.fairfieldct.org/bigelowcenter](http://www.fairfieldct.org/bigelowcenter) )

#### D. Other New Items

No other items.

#### E. Other updates from CFA Members

Karen Martin has been appointed and sworn in as a full member of the CFA. There are potential new members who are currently in process to join the CFA. Information is forthcoming from the Town Hall.

#### F. Open Discussion

Members discussed the new venue of the Easton Courier, now known as Aspetuck News. Eileen has been in contact with them to post news items.

DSS Line – There is need to access information in a timely manner and the CT Dept of Social Services call line access is very limited. [www.Portal.ct.gov/DSS/About-the-Department-of-Social-Services/Contact](http://www.Portal.ct.gov/DSS/About-the-Department-of-Social-Services/Contact)

#### 4. Next Meeting

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 at 5:00 PM at the ESC. The agenda will be forwarded to the Town Clerk for proper posting.

#### 5. Adjourn

Linda Dollard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Phyllis Machledt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved at 6:21 PM.

Submitted by,

Lisa V. Tasi

Chair, Commission for the Aging